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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ali N. Saleh  
Assignee: Cisco Technology, Inc.  
Title: METHOD FOR PATH SELECTION IN A NETWORK  
Application No.: 09/478,235 Filed: January 4, 2000  
Examiner: Timothy Lee Group Art Unit: 2697  
Docket No.: CIS0008P2US Confirmation No.: 1418

Austin, Texas  
January 9, 2004

MAIL STOP RCE  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P. O. BO 1450  
Washington, D. C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This paper and the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE) are being submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated August 11, 2003, having a shortened statutory period set to expire on November 11, 2003. Accompanying this response is a two-month Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for Extension of Time setting a new time for response of January 11, 2004. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

**No Amendments to the Specification** are presented in this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**No Amendments to the Drawings** are presented in this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 21 of this paper.

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04 FC:1202 108.00 DA